

Winter 2010-11



the chatterbox



Male Cardinal @ Cool Creek Park



Maple Syrup Production @ Bray Park

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Hamilton County Commissioners

Christine Altman
Steven Holt
Steven Dillinger

Hamilton County Council

John Hiatt	Rick McKinney
Steve Schwartz	Brad Beaver
Meredith Carter	James Belden
Judy Levine	

Hamilton County Park Board

Andrew Prather	Susan Peterson
Philip Shelby	Dr. Judith Campbell
Larry Roudebush	Stephen Andrews, Att.
Mark McCauley	

Mission Statement

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department shall exist to serve the leisure and recreational needs of the residents and tourists of the county. We will strive to be the leader in providing well-maintained, high-quality passive parks and facilities, excellent programs and services, and the preservation of greenspace to enhance the quality of life in the county.

Park Board Meetings

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation park board meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Cool Creek Nature Center Auditorium, located at 2000-1 East 151st Street in Carmel. The meetings are open to the public.

Park Hours

All parks operated by Hamilton County Parks and Recreation are open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Some sections of the park may be closed due to special events or shelter reservations. Please refer to *The Chatterbox* or call the administration office.

The Chatterbox is distributed in March, June, September, and December. If you would like to be on our mailing list or have an address change, please call the Administration Office at 317-770-4400.

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Taylor Center of Natural History • 317-984-5556

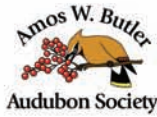
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Coxhall Gardens • 317-817-0311

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For info on other parks visit:
www.hampa.org www.inpra.org

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Hello and welcome to the winter edition of the *Chatterbox*! Those of you who have been reading the *Chatterbox* for a while know that winter is my favorite time of the year. I love the weather (usually) and the season is full of time spent together with family and friends enjoying holidays and traditions. My message is going to take a more somber note. If you have been reading the paper and following the news, government is going through some difficult times. There has been a lot of talk about budget cuts, staff cuts, and just plain cutting back. Hamilton County is a great place to live but we are not immune to what is going on around us. Our elected officials have been doing a great job navigating us through these difficult times. However, not even the best laid plans can help when the decisions of others have the kind of effect we are seeing now. As a park department, we are doing our best to continue to provide the same level of excellent service you have grown accustomed to, but we are being asked to do this with less; less money, less people, less time. Our commitment has always been and will continue to be, to move forward and never take a step back. We will be asking all of you to show some patience with us. Things will change. Processes will change. Faces will change. Programs will change. Our goal is to utilize our resources and tools to assure you that your Hamilton County Parks experience remains the same great experience; minute to minute, day to day, month to month, and program to program.

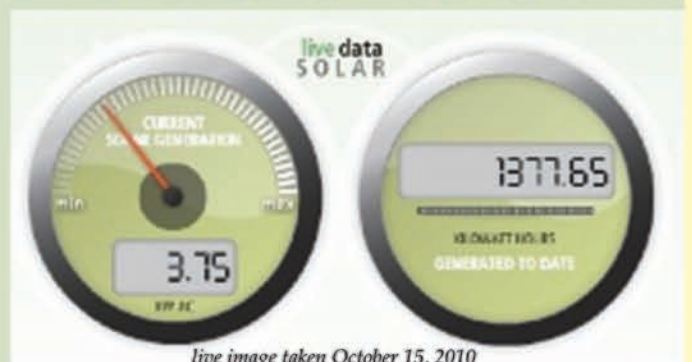


See you in the parks,
Al Patterson
Director

Solar Panels at the Cool Creek Nature Center

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department has taken one more step in going green! We have just completed installing 64,245 watt solar panels on the roof of the Cool Creek Nature Center. They have the ability to generate a maximum of 15.6 kilowatts on a sunny day. These panels are connected to 2 inverters. An inverter is a device that converts DC power created by the solar panels into AC power used in homes and businesses. These inverters feed the power to the Nature Center. At its most efficient, the solar panels can produce all or more power than the Nature Center consumes. If it produces more energy than consumed, the balance is sent thru the bi-directional utility meter to the utility company.

View the energy generated at your own computer by visiting www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com and click on the Cool Creek Nature Center Solar Panels link!



live image taken October 15, 2010

Snowflakes and Silent Nights Exhibit ❄️

The beauty and peacefulness of winter is explored at our nature center during this exhibit. Learn about the wonder of snowflakes, how to identify animal tracks in freshly fallen snow, and about the owls living in the snow-filled woods. Winter is a great time to begin bird-watching; so while you are here we invite you to check out our Wildlife Viewing Area. You can also explore the "Learning Tree," do a free daily craft, visit our cozy greenhouse, and participate in scavenger hunts and activities. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the amazing natural world just outside your door! For more information please call the Cool Creek Nature Center at 317-774-2500.

Dates: December 6 -March 13

Nature Center is closed on: December 24, 25, 26, 31; January 1 and 17; February 7 and 21

Times: Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

park programs



Pajama-Rama

Put on your cutest pair of pajamas, grab your favorite teddy bear, pack up an old blanket, and join us at the Cool Creek Nature Center for Pajama-Rama! Families looking for a fun program to enjoy with your toddlers and preschoolers will love the music educator from Moriah Music who will lead us in songs and stories about some of our favorite animals.

Dates: December 3; January 7; February 4; March 4

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Ages: Best for families with children ages 1-7

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Yes, call 317-774-2500 or email at cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Holiday Tree Decorating

Help prepare treats for the Koteewi critters just in time for the winter holidays. We will be making edible treats and decorate a tree here at the park. Hot chocolate will be served after the tree decorating.

Date: Saturday, December 11

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Ages: Families

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH-SKP

WINTER BREAK PROGRAMS

Hey students! Have you been stuck in the house all winter break? Do you have a little bit of "cabin fever?" Would you love to get out for a fun afternoon activity? Look no further than Hamilton County Parks as we present some fun and interactive programs.

Look for the ❄️ for programs scheduled over holiday break!!

BFHP= Bray Family Homestead Park

CCP= Cool Creek Park

CCNC= Cool Creek Nature Center

CXG= Coxhall Gardens

GP= Geist Park

LTP= Lafayette Trace Park

MPB= Morse Park and Beach

PBP=Potter's Bridge Park

RRP= River Road Park

SKP= Strawtown Koteewi Park

TCNH= Taylor Center of Natural History

WRC= White River Campground

Animals of the North with Silly Safaris ❄️

Winter break is awesome with Silly Safaris! Join Alligator Aaron as he visits with some animal guests from way up North. This arctic adventure will be heaps of fun.

Date: Monday, December 27
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for school aged children
Location: CCNC

Dogs of the Iditarod ❄️

Do you love dogs? If so, join Sue and Fawn Wilson of Team Firehawk as they introduce the sport of dog sled racing. Team Firehawk will discuss how the dogs played a part in history and about their participation in the Iditarod! On top of that, you'll get to meet the dogs and even stand on the sled!

Date: Tuesday, December 28
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for school aged children
Location: CCNC

Rainforest Creepy Critters ❄️

Come learn about the snakes, tarantulas, and scorpions of the Rainforests. Snakehead Ed will share animals from South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia and will emphasize the importance of rainforest habitats. Cool adaptations of these animals will be discussed as well.

Date: Wednesday, December 29
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for school aged children
Location: CCNC

Exotic Feline Rescue Center Program ❄️

We are happy to welcome Jean Herrberg, staff member and licensed teacher with the Exotic Feline Rescue Center, as she presents an interactive and educational program about the Center and the magnificent creatures in their care. The mission of the Exotic Feline Rescue Center is to provide permanent homes for exotic felines that have been abused or abandoned and educate the public about these beautiful cats.

Date: Thursday, December 30
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: All
Location: CCNC

A Visit with a Hoosier Pioneer

History will come alive as we host "Andrew Amonett," a true-to-life frontiersman of the Indiana Territory as presented by Kevin Stonerock. The presentation, complete with tall tales, deals with various aspects of the frontier life and the dangers faced in the Indiana Territory just prior to the War of 1812. Topics include trapping, militia service, Indian affairs, tools, weapons, and frontier clothing.

Date: Saturday, January 22
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Location: TCNH-SKP

Groundhog Day Program

Why does this rodent deserve its own holiday? Come find out as we celebrate Groundhog Day! Learn cultural history and folklore as well as the natural history about this local "furry friend." Due to hibernation, no actual groundhogs will be in attendance.

Date: Wednesday, February 2
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Location: CCNC



Collection Identification

Do you have some arrowheads, stone tools, or other Native American artifacts about which you would like to know more? Archaeologist Jim Mohow will help artifact collectors identify personal collection pieces. When possible, Mr. Mohow will give you the dates and stories associated with these fascinating relics of the past and the people who used them.

Date: Saturday, February 5
Time: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Cost: Free
Location: TCNH-SKP



Taylor Center of Natural History at Strawtown Koteewi Park

The Taylor Center of Natural History is open daily! Visitors are invited to discover the colorful local history that stretches thousands of years into the past. Artifacts recovered by professional archaeologists in previous excavations are on display in our exhibit room. Over six miles of trails are open, so don't forget your hiking shoes and sense of adventure! Group tours or presentations can also be arranged by calling 317-984-5556 or 317-714-7144.

Hours: Monday-Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Note: The Taylor Center is closed on:
December 24, 25, 26, 31; January 1 and
17; February 21

Camp Registration Day

Saturday, March 19
Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.
Location: CCNC

The Cool Creek Nature Staff is gearing up for another exciting camp season! We are currently planning our summer camp schedule. There will be significant changes to our registration options this year, including an online registration!

Registration guidelines and camp dates will be published on our website, www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com beginning January 7, 2011. Registration forms will be made available for pick up at the Cool Creek Nature Center beginning Saturday, February 28. You can contact us anytime with questions as you look ahead to planning your child's camp experience with us next year.

Contact the Cool Creek Nature Center at 317-774-2500 with any questions.

Cool Creek CAMPS





Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion

Looking for a beautiful and serene location to hold your upcoming wedding and reception? The Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion is now ready to rent for weddings, wedding receptions, and any other special event you may have on your calendar. Rental is available from April through October.

For more information and to rent this facility, please call Ritz Charles at 317-846-9158.

Osprey Pointe Pavilion

Planning a shower, wedding reception, or any other special event? Our indoor rental facility at Morse Park and Beach is looking good and waiting for to you to rent! Osprey Pointe is located on the bank of Morse Reservoir with a beautiful view of the water and sunset. The facility's seating capacity is 101 people and has a kitchenette and restrooms.

Facility Rental Rate:	\$160.50 for 4 hours
Non-resident Rate:	\$240.75 for 4 hours
Additional Hours:	\$42.80 per hour
Damage Deposit:	\$100
Alcohol Deposit:	\$400

Rental Rates include an on-site security guard and use of all tables and chairs.

park rentals



Shelter Reservations

Looking to rent a picnic shelter for a family picnic, reunion, or other special event? Shelter reservations are available online!

Visit www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com and click on the "facilities for rent" link.

Shelters are available for rent between the months of April - September! Book your shelter for the 2011 season!

Christmas Bird Count-Hamilton County

Celebrate the holidays by helping Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Department and the National Audubon Society conduct its annual Christmas Bird Count. Join us at Cool Creek Nature Center for a day of hiking and birding. A \$5 donation is requested by the National Audubon Society to help cover production costs of the result report. Lunch for participants will be provided by the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department. Call the Cool Creek Nature Center at 317-774-2500 or Art Jeffries at 317-844-1686 to pre-register or to receive more details.

Date: Saturday, December 18

Time: 8:00 am

Cost: \$5.00 donation to National Audubon Society

Ages: All

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Yes, call 317-774-2500 or email at cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

outdoor programs



Winter Tree ID

Don't let the "bark" bite after the leaves have fallen from the trees. Take the time to walk the trails with Naturalist "Nature" Dan to see if you have what it takes to ID a tree in the winter. We will take a closer look at bark, twigs, fruit, and buds and how they can be used to identify trees any time of year.

Date: Saturday, January 15

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Beginning Bird Hikes ❄️

Birds are fascinating and watching them can be an awe-inspiring experience. Catching a glimpse of these gorgeous creatures, however, can be frustrating and learning how to identify all of them can be overwhelming! Join our Naturalist staff and other guest leaders (when available) Sunday and Wednesday mornings and we will learn together. This will be a great opportunity for bird-watchers of all levels. You may begin anytime during the season and come as often as you like. Pre-registration is not required. Bring your binoculars!

Cool Creek Park: These hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park; past the Nature Center.

Dates: December 8, 12, 15, 22, 29; January 9, 12, 19, 23, 26; February 6, 9, 16, 20, 23

Days: Wednesday and every other Sunday

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Strawtown Koteewi Park: These hikes will meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History.

Dates: December 1; January 5; February 2

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Winter Track Walk

Let's take a stroll along the snow covered trails of Strawtown and look for animal tracks. You will learn easy ways to identify tracks and make a track "cookie" to take home. In the event of bad weather or no snow, we'll hunt for tracks indoors.

Date: Saturday, February 12

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Ages: All

Location: TCNH-SKP

Maple Syrup Program at Bray Park



Get "sappy" with Hamilton County Parks. The staff will be demonstrating the tapping process on some of the same trees that the Bray Family tapped over the last 150 years. Traditional and modern equipment used in the process will be featured as well as information about the folklore, history, and facts about Maple trees.

Date: Saturday, March 5

Time: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Ages: All

Location: BFHP

Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-774-2500 or email: cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Star and Satellite Gazing Tours

Join Dr. Ronald Weiss, adjunct professor of Astronomy and Earth Science for Vincennes University, for a fascinating evening of star and satellite gazing. Amateur astronomer Dan Malone of the Wabash Valley Astronomical Society will be assisting Dr. Weiss as the group learns about and attempts to view the stars, planets, constellations, satellites, and deep sky objects that are visible each month. In the event that the sky is cloudy, an indoor astronomy program is planned. Please see below for program topic information. You are welcome to bring your own telescope or binoculars, but we ask that pets are left at home. This program will meet near the Taylor Center of Natural History.

Dates: Saturday, December 4 at 5:30 p.m. (Quasars)
Saturday, January 8 at 5:30 p.m. (The life of Stars)
Saturday, February 5 at 6:00 p.m. (Galaxies)

Ages: Adults and families with school-aged children

Cost: Free

Pre-registration: No

Location: SKP

Strawtown Enclosure-Native American Village Tours



Our interpretive staff will be conducting tours of the Strawtown Enclosure for interested guests of the park. During these tours we will discuss the details known thus far regarding the Native Americans who built and used the enclosure and village over 700 years ago. The tours will begin inside the Taylor Center of Natural History and include a short stroll to the village site. For more information, please contact us at 317-984-5556.

Dates: Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.

Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Note: There will be no tours on December 25, 26; January 1

Distinguished Trees of Hamilton County

We would like to locate and recognize large trees within Hamilton County. HCPR would like to know if you or someone you know has a large tree! We are also looking for trees that have an important historical value.

Nominate your special tree by filling out an application. Each application will require measurement of the tree and other basic information.

Copies of the application may be downloaded at our website. Applications can also be mailed to you. Once the application is received, you will be contacted by a naturalist for further details. There is a specific list of the type of trees that can be nominated. Visit our website for more information or call 317-774-2500.

Below is a partial list of native Hamilton County trees:

Eastern Cottonwood
Black Walnut
American Beech
Shagbark Hickory
Tulip Tree
Honey Locust
Black Cherry
Boxelder
Eastern Redbud
Downy Serviceberry
Silver Maple
Sugar Maple
Ohio Buckeye
Northern Red Oak
Hackberry
American Elm

For a complete list, please visit our website:
www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com



Holiday Happenings

Join the holiday cheer at the Cool Creek Nature Center! Visit Mr. and Mrs. Claus, listen to the Circle City Ringers, check out the animal program and more! Don't forget to make a craft for your mom and dad! Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Wagon rides throughout the park will also be offered free of charge. They will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Date: Sunday, December 12

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Bring a donation of canned food, new clothing, and/or new toys to the Cool Creek Nature Center the ENTIRE month of November and December. All donations will benefit Amanda Strong Food for the Needy program, which benefits needy families in Hamilton County.

Special events



Race to the New Year

Start your New Year's resolution to get in shape at Cool Creek Park! The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with Washington Township Parks and Recreation and Westfield Parks and Recreation for this fourth annual 5K walk and run. Awards will be given in seven ages groups. Early registration ends December 27th. For more information, please call 317-574-9450.

Date: Saturday, January 8

Time: Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.

Race begins at 9:30 a.m.

Cost: \$15 before December 27

\$20 after December 27

Registration Info: Call 317-574-9450

Location: Cool Creek Park

Daddy Daughter Dance

Dads, spend a quality night at the Cool Creek Nature Center with your little girl and dance the night away at our sixth annual Daddy-Daughter Dance. Snacks, refreshments, music, and games will be on the agenda for a fun-filled night. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required and space is limited!

Date: Thursday, February 10

Friday, February 11

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per father-daughter couple

\$3 for each additional daughter

Pre-Registration: Call 770-4400. Payment is required at the time of registration. Registration ends February 4 or until spaces are filled.

Location: CCNC

Adult/Senior Programs

Gardening clubs, senior citizen organizations, high school science or nature clubs, and other adult groups looking for programs and presentations should look into Hamilton County Parks! Our park staff is available to conduct themed hikes, lectures, and presentations on many nature-related topics at any of our parks. Our staff may also be scheduled for outreach/offsite programming when available.

Cost: Free/Donations are accepted
Pre-registration required by calling 317-774-2501.

School Field Trips with Hamilton County Parks

Put the fun back into your school's field trips by visiting one of Hamilton County's Parks! Our Naturalist staff know that kids love being outside as they learn through discovering, and teachers love an organized, safe, and educational experience for their students. We've provided the equipment and enthusiasm needed for hands-on field trips for over ten years. With a variety of parks and themes to choose from, you are bound to find a program that fits your needs. We will be glad to tailor parts of your visit to fit your grade's curriculum. Our field trips are geared toward students of all ages and group sizes.

Call us today to schedule an exciting nature trip at any of our parks for example, Cool Creek Park or Strawtown Koteewi Park. Don't wait! Spots fill up fast! To schedule your school's field trip or receive additional information concerning them, please call 317-774-2501.

Cost: Free/Hamilton County students
\$1 per child/Out of county students
Donations are accepted
Pre-registration required by calling 317-774-2501.

Backyard Conservation 101 for Groundskeepers

This workshop, targeted at groundskeepers, parks staff, and other property managers, will cover the important basics of Backyard Conservation. Learn which commonly used landscaping plants are really invasive plants that you should avoid, what native plants to replace them with, how to properly mulch trees and shrubs, and much more!

To receive more information on the workshop or to register please call or email Tina Moon at the Soil and Water Conservation District at 317-773-2181, tina.moon@hamiltoncounty.in.gov.

Date: Thursday, February 17
Time: 8:00 a.m. to Noon
Ages: Adults
Location: CCNC

Scout Groups Activities

Are you looking for a great activity for your scouts? Look no further than Hamilton County Parks. Scouts can experience a hike or an animal talk with a naturalist and also participate in a craft. Whether you are working towards a badge or just looking for a fun scout activity, our staff is up for the challenge. Groups are typically scheduled at least two weeks in advance and dates do fill up fast; so don't wait! To schedule your scout trip or receive additional information concerning them, please call 317-774-2503.

Cost: Free/Hamilton County scouts
\$1 per child/Out of county scouts
Donations are accepted
Pre-registration required by calling 317-774-2503.

group educational opportunities




Great Horned Owls have more light and motion detecting cells in their eyes than humans and therefore are able to see better in low light.



Be a Parks Partner!

Volunteering for the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department can be a fun and rewarding experience!

Volunteer opportunities include general park up-keep, assisting with special events, help with gardening, caring for the Nature Center's wildlife friends, greenhouse work, gardening, landscaping, cleaning, socializing, and education.

You can also check out the programs and events in this issue! Look for the  ! All programs with this symbol are looking for volunteers!

To volunteer, please contact Sue Wilson at 317-770-4400 or visit our website at www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com



be a parks partner



Seed Collection/Prairie Restoration Project



Everyone loves seeing the beautiful native wildflowers blooming in the spring and summer. We are looking for volunteers to help collect seeds from the prairie in the fall and winter to plant the following year. While volunteering you will learn to identify the plants and discover the historic and medicinal uses these plants had for the native americans and pioneers who first lived in this area. Volunteers can also take some of the seeds collected home for use in their own gardens and landscapes.

Dates: December 11,18
January 15, 22

Times: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ages: Any

Cost: Free

Location: SKP

Pre Registration: Yes, contact Susan Wilson at 317-774-2509 or email at Susan.Wilson@hamiltonocounty.in.gov

Congratulations to the 2009 Park Partners of the year!

This past summer, a volunteer banquet was held in honor of all the wonderful volunteers at the parks department. Three people were chosen for their devotion and enthusiasm. We are very fortunate to have them as part of our parks partner program!

Brad Claxton
Steve Surette
Bailey Samuelson



photo courtesy of Steven Furlow, The Times



A HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers that helped throughout 2010.

Businesses, clubs and groups who volunteered in 2010:

Carmel Rugby Team
Stanley Security Solutions
Cox Scholars of Indiana University
Clarian North Medical Center
Circle of Friends
School for the Deaf
White River Rugby Team
Hamilton-Boone-Madison County Special Services
Lilly USA
Girl Scout Troop 888
Boy Scout Troop 101
Mothers Serving Others
Anglican Church of the Resurrection LEAP Camp kids
Park Tudor High School Senior Class
Amanda Strong Food for the Needy
Carmel Kiwanas
Delta Theta Tau
NHS/WHS Theatre
WHS Key Club
WHS DECA Club
ABATE of Hamilton County
Hamilton County Master Gardeners

Individual Volunteers:

The Taff family
The Bradley family
The Uycoque family
Terri Boles
Harlan Shannon
Bill Purnhagen
Brad Claxton
Bailey Samuelson
Art Jeffries,
Dana Koglin
Derek Carlson
Jenny Chisler
Kim Jones
Les Marcuson
Steve Surette
Rosalyn Demaree
Jim Lybager
Jerry Haley
Ron Weiss
Jeannine Mattingly

Shannon Lapekas
Joel Pearson
David McPherson
Joe Beaty
Jeffrey Buhrt
Clay Curtis
Jack Curtis
Brian Henn
John Nicholas
Kate Patterson
Christian Purdie
Nikhita Samala
Jessie Whitaker
Ted Zeunik
Keith Starling
Dan Malone
Terry Bowen

Phosphorus: Threatening Our water and wildlife from Lawn to Lake

Before fertilizing your lawn consider Indiana's streams and lakes. Phosphorus should only be used on newly established lawns or those deficient in phosphorus as determined by a soil test.

Phosphorus, a nutrient plants use to develop a strong root system and store energy, can be a nuisance in excess quantities. Described as cultural eutrophication, too much phosphorus causes undesired algal blooms and oxygen depletion disrupting the ecosystems in lakes and streams. There are several pathways by which phosphorus enters Indiana water including urban storm water, sewage treatment plants, and agricultural run-off, but the easiest to address is residential storm water run-off containing phosphorus from lawn fertilizer.

Most lawns in Indiana do not require yearly phosphorus applications because they are currently saturated with the nutrient. Unused phosphorus leaves lawns and travels into rivers, streams, and lakes causing algae growth. Algae deprive native aquatic species of oxygen, food, and sunlight. By managing nutrient use, we can restore Indiana's biodiversity in aquatic habitats and improve water quality.

Besides the increased availability of phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer, more professional applicators such as Tru-Green and Engledow Group use phosphorus-free fertilizer. The Office of State Chemist at Purdue is developing a new 3B license program for professional applicators. In addition to pesticide regulations, the license program will include proper fertilizer use education and training. The State Chemist's jurisdiction is limited to fertilizer applicators for hire. This legislation applies to all property owners and restricts use to phosphorus-free fertilizer for lawn maintenance. Exceptions will be granted for establishing new turf lawns and when a soil test indicates low phosphorus in a lawn. Agricultural land and garden food production are exempt from the policy.

As a partner education outreach effort, "Clean Choices, Clean Water" is a strategic project to inform and raise awareness about the connection between lawn care practices and the adverse impacts on Indiana's lakes and streams. Special emphasis has been placed on changing to phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer for mature turf grass. Please become involved by signing the Clear Choices, Clean Water Pledge to be phosphorus-free and joining the IWF team online at www.indianawildlife.org/phosphorus.htm.



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Beginning Bird Hike@ SKP	2	3 Pajama Rama	4 Star/Satellite Tour
5 Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	6	7	8 Beginning Bird Hike	9	10	11 Holiday Tree Decorating
12 Holiday Happenings Beginning Bird Hike	13	14	15 Beginning Bird Hike	16	17	18 Xmas Bird Count
19 Enclosure Tour	20 Winter Exhibit Begins	21	22 Beginning Bird Hike	23	24 Facilities Closed	25 Facilities Closed
26 Facilities Closed	27 Animals of North	28 Dogs of Iditarod	29 Creepy Critters Beginning Bird Hike	30 Exotic Feline Prog.	31 Facilities Closed	

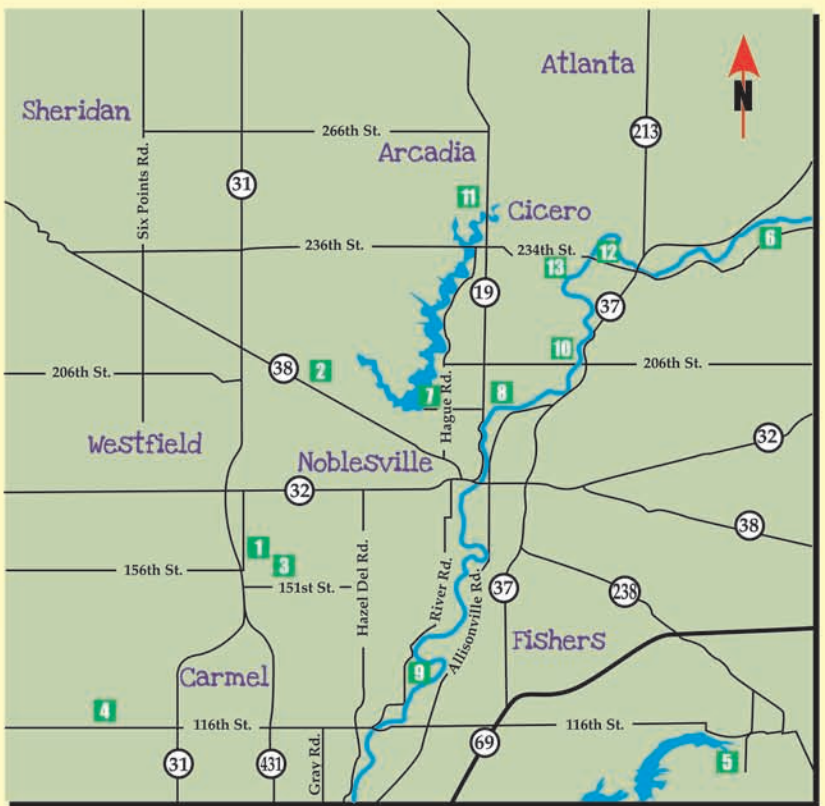
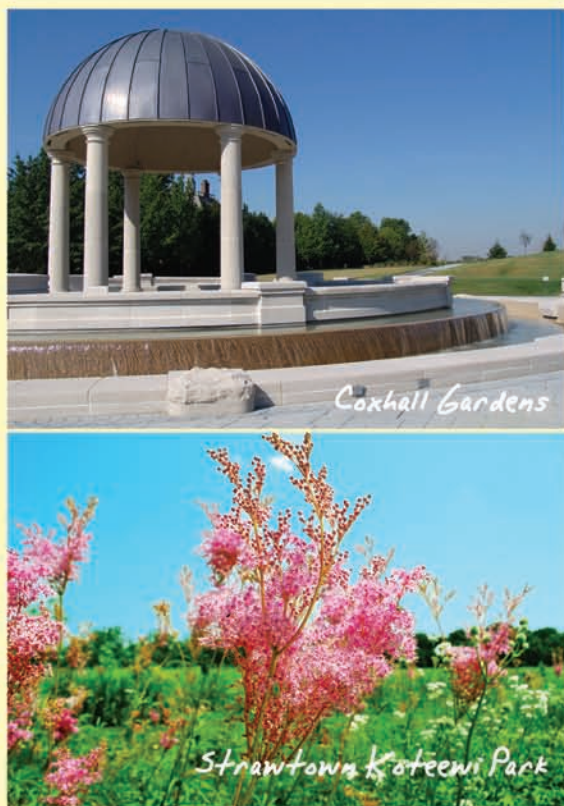
January

						1 Facilities Closed
2 Enclosure Tour	3	4	5 B. Bird Hike @ SKP	6	7 Pajama Rama	8 Star/Satellite Tour Race to the New Year
9 Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	10	11	12 Beginning Bird Hike	13	14	15 Winter Tree ID
16 Enclosure Tour	17 Facilities Closed	18	19 Beginning Bird Hike	20	21	22 Hoosier Pioneer Prog.
23 Enclosure Tour Beg. Bird Hike 30	24	25	26 Beginning Bird Hike	27	28	29

February

		1	2 Groundhog Program Beginning Bird Hike	3	4 Pajama Rama	5 Enclosure Tour Star/Satellite Tour Collection ID
6 Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	7 CCNC Closed	8	9 Beginning Bird Hike	10 DD Dance	11 DD Dance	12 Enclosure Tour Winter Track Walk
13 Enclosure Tour	14	15	16 Beginning Bird Hike	17	18	19 Enclosure Tour
20 Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	21 Facilities Closed	22	23 Beginning Bird Hike	24	25	26 Enclosure Tour
27 Enclosure Tour	28					

	bathhouse	beach	boat dock	fishing	canoe launch	music pavilion	picnic tables	picnic shelters	restrooms	playground	disc golf	soccer fields	baseball/ softball	basketball court	volleyball court	bicycling	greenspace	nature trail	paved trail	equestrian trail	camping	wetland/ prairie	
1. Administration Office 15513 South Union Street, Carmel																							317-770-4400
2. Bray Family Homestead Park 4528 St. Road 38, Noblesville																	●						317-770-4400
3. Cool Creek Park 2000 East 151st Street, Carmel						●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●				●	317-774-2500 Cool Creek Nature Center
4. Coxhall Gardens 116th and Towne Road, Carmel				●		●			●	●						●	●	●	●			●	317-770-4400
5. Geist Park 10979 Florida Road, Fortville				●	●		●	●	●	●							●	●				●	317-770-4400
6. Lafayette Trace Park Strawtown Avenue East, White River Twp.				●	●												●						317-770-4400
7. Morse Park and Beach 19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●					317-770-4400
8. Potter's Bridge Park 19401 N. Allisonville Road, Noblesville				●	●		●	●	●	●						●	●	●					317-770-4400
9. River Road Park 12575 River Road, Carmel				●	●				●	●						●	●	●	●			●	317-770-4400
10. Riverwood Canoe Landing				●	●																		317-770-4400
11. Stoops Rookery (unofficial name)																	●						317-770-4400
12. Strawtown Koteewi Park 12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville				●	●											●	●	●		●	●		317-984-5556 Taylor Center
13. White River Campground 11299 East 234th Street, Cicero	●			●	●		●	●	●	●					●	●	●				●		317-984-2705





Hamilton County Parks and Recreation
15513 South Union Street
Carmel, Indiana 46033

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If you would like to be removed from the list, please call 317-770-4400
or email hamilton.parks@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Hamilton County Parks 2011 Event and Appointment Calendars available Soon!

Did you know that the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department will publish its seventh annual calendar this winter? The 2011 Event and Appointment Calendar is a must have for all park patrons! Not only is it a wonderful way to keep track of your busy schedule, it also includes the upcoming dates for many of the Hamilton County Park favorite programs such as:

2011 Summer Day Camps
Cool Creek Concert Series
Cool Creek Campfire Series
Potter's Bridge Fall Festival
and much more!



The calendar includes wonderful photos of the park system taken by local photographers and park staff. All proceeds from the sale of the calendars support the programs offered at the Cool Creek Nature Center. Be sure to pick up a copy while visiting the Nature Center this winter!